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ARENT FOX LLP 1050 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 400 WASHINGTON, DC 20036			EXAMINER ABDELSALAM, FATHI K	
			ART UNIT 4176	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 05/16/2008	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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IPMatters@arentfox.com

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/735,643

Applicant(s)

FUJIMOTO, JUN

Examiner

Fathi Abdelsalam

Art Unit

4176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) none is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 December, 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/ISD)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20040408, 20050119

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to applicant's communication filed on 12/16/2003, wherein claims 1-32 are currently pending.

Priority

2. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) based upon an application filed in Japan on 12/20/2002.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statements (IDS) submitted on 04/08/2004 and 01/19/2005 are being considered by the examiner.

Specification

4. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

5. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of the improper language and content, and excessive length. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, Second Paragraph

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claims 1-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The term "comprehensively" in claims 1 and 32 is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "comprehensively" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in:

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

9. Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Boushy et al. (US 6,003,013) (Hereinafter referred to as Boushy).

10. Regarding **Claim 32**:

Boushy discloses a hotel management system managing the using state of a plurality of hotel facilities including a casino ([Col 1, lines 15-20], "invention relates to the field of systems for tracking customer activity at casinos, and in particular, to systems for tracking customers' gaming and non-gaming activity across affiliated casino properties"), the hotel management system comprising:

identification medium issuing device for issuing an identification medium to a hotel user, the identification medium capable of being utilized in the casino and the hotel facilities other than the casino and having identification information which is differently allotted for each hotel user ([Boushy Col 1, lines 27-30], "these tracking programs are implemented by providing each customer with a casino membership card") and ([Boushy Col 1, lines 37-42], "Customer cards may also be used to track customer activity at casino venues, such as special events, showrooms, and hotels, through card readers and computer terminals manned by casino employees");

a reading device for reading the identification information recorded in the identification medium issued by the identification medium issuing device, the reading device being installed in each of the hotel facilities ([Boushy Abstract], ""Customer accounts are updated with new activity data whenever a management system associated with the casino receives customer data from input devices, such as card readers, workstations, and dumb terminals, located at various venues"); and a managing device for managing the using state in each of the hotel facilities corresponding to the identification information read by the reading device ([Boushy Col 1, lines 27-30], "casino membership card which includes a machine readable identification number specific to the customer").

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. Claims 1-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Binh Thanh Vuong et al. (US 2002/0147042) (Hereinafter referred to as Vuong), in view of Boushy et al. (US 6,003,013) (Hereinafter referred to as Boushy).

13. Regarding **Claim 1**:

Vuong discloses a casino management system complete with an "interface manager for interfacing the table to a communications network and detectable gaming objects," [Abstract]. Vuong however, fails to disclose a hotel management system managing the using state of a plurality of hotel facilities including a casino.

However, Boushy teaches a hotel management system managing the using state of a plurality of hotel facilities including a casino ([Col 1, lines 15-20], "invention relates to the field of systems for tracking customer activity at casinos, and in particular, to systems for tracking customers' gaming and non-gaming activity across affiliated casino properties"), the hotel management system comprising:

identification medium issuing means for issuing an identification medium to a hotel user, the identification medium capable of being used in the casino and the hotel facilities other than the casino and having identification information which is differently allotted for each hotel user ([Boushy Col 1, lines 27-30], "these tracking programs are implemented by providing each customer with a casino membership card") and ([Boushy Col 1, lines 37-42], "Customer cards may also be used to track customer activity at casino venues, such as special events, showrooms, and hotels, through card readers and computer terminals manned by casino employees");

reading means for reading the identification information recorded in the identification medium issued by the identification medium issuing means, the reading means being installed in each of the hotel facilities ([Boushy Abstract], "Customer

accounts are updated with new activity data whenever a management system associated with the casino receives customer data from input devices, such as card readers, workstations, and dumb terminals, located at various venues"); and managing means for managing the using state in each of the hotel facilities corresponding to the identification information read by the reading means ([Boushy Col 1, lines 27-30], "casino membership card which includes a machine readable identification number specific to the customer").

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have modified the system of Vuong so as to have included a hotel management system managing the using state of a plurality of hotel facilities including a casino, as taught by Boushy, in order to "enhance the speed and reliability of play of a wide range of games of chance" [Vuong, 0034], since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

14. Regarding **Claim 2**:

Vuong fails to disclose a hotel management system, wherein the managing means manages money flow in the hotel facilities for each of the hotel users.

However, Boushy teaches a hotel management system, wherein the managing means manages money flow in the hotel facilities for each of the hotel users ([Col 1, line 34], "Customers need only insert their cards in slot machines or card readers associated

with gaming tables or give their cards to a casino employee to have their betting activity monitored and reflected in their accounts”).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have modified the system of Vuong so as to have included a hotel management system, wherein the managing means manages money flow in the hotel facilities for each of the hotel users, as taught by Boushy, in order to “enhance the speed and reliability of play of a wide range of games of chance” [Vuong, 0034], since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

15. Regarding **Claim 3**:

Vuong fails to disclose a hotel management system, wherein the hotel facilities include at least facilities for staying and for eating and drinking, in addition to the casino.

However, Boushy teaches a hotel management system, wherein the hotel facilities include at least facilities for staying and for eating and drinking ([Boushy Col 1, lines 37-42], “Customer cards may also be used to track customer activity at casino venues, such as special events, showrooms, and hotels, through card readers and computer terminals manned by casino employees”), in addition to the casino ([Abstract], “tracked activity at all affiliated casino properties”) and ([Col 7, lines 15-17], “a restaurant/retail point of sale system coupled to the workstation and card reader”).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have modified the system of Vuong so as to have included a hotel management system, wherein the hotel facilities include at least facilities for staying and for eating and drinking, in addition to the casino, as taught by Boushy, in order to “enhance the speed and reliability of play of a wide range of games of chance” [Vuong, 0034], thus obviously and subsequently allowing customers to move more efficiently in and out of hotel and casino properties, since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

16. Regarding **Claim 4**:

Vuong fails to disclose a hotel management system, wherein the identification medium has a deposit reference part for referring a deposit deposited by the hotel user therein, and wherein the hotel user can utilize the hotel facilities according to the deposit read from the deposit reference part by the reading means.

However, Boushy teaches a hotel management system, wherein the identification medium has a deposit reference part for referring a deposit deposited by the hotel user therein, and wherein the hotel user can utilize the hotel facilities according to the deposit read from the deposit reference part by the reading means ([Col 1, line 34], “Customers need only insert their cards in slot machines or card readers associated with gaming tables or give their cards to a casino employee to have

their betting activity monitored and reflected in their accounts”) and ([Col 12, line 7], “the start time of a betting session or the venue at which a wagering activity is occurring may be reflected to the customer’s account”).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have modified the system of Vuong so as to have included a hotel management system, wherein the identification medium has a deposit reference part for referring a deposit deposited by the hotel user therein, and wherein the hotel user can utilize the hotel facilities according to the deposit read from the deposit reference part by the reading means, as taught by Boushy, in order to “enhance the speed and reliability of play of a wide range of games of chance” [Vuong, 0034], since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

17. Regarding **Claim 5**:

Vuong discloses a casino management system comprising an “interface manager for interfacing the table to a communications network and detectable gaming objects,” [Abstract]; wherein a plurality of gaming machines are installed in the casino, and at least one of a roulette type, and a gaming table device for playing card game and a slot machine is included in the gaming machines ([Vuong Abstract], “invention provides the capability to adapt common casino games”).

Vuong however, fails to disclose a hotel management system managing the using state of a plurality of hotel facilities including a casino. However, Boushy teaches a hotel management system ([Col 1, lines 15-20], "invention relates to the field of systems for tracking customer activity at casinos, and in particular, to systems for tracking customers' gaming and non-gaming activity across affiliated casino properties");

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have modified the casino management system of Vuong wherein a plurality of gaming machines are installed in the casino, so as to have included a hotel management system, as taught by Boushy, in order to "enhance the speed and reliability of play of a wide range of games of chance" [Vuong, 0034]], thus obviously and subsequently allowing customers to move more efficiently in and out of hotel and casino properties, since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

18. Regarding **Claim 6**:

Vuong discloses a system wherein the roulette comprises: a roulette wheel having a plurality of pockets formed therein ([0005], "the roulette wheel ...located on the casino floor") and ([0011], "if the game of chance is roulette, the gaming object is the steel or plastic ball whose position on the roulette wheel will determine one of the 38 (or

39) values. Each gaming object is adapted to generate at least one unique signal that may be detected by the intelligent table.");

a bet board having a plurality of bet areas formed corresponding to the pockets of the roulette wheel [Figure 9];

first detecting means arranged on the roulette wheel, for detecting a position of the pocket where a roulette ball stops on the roulette wheel and value in a roulette game corresponding to the pocket ([Abstract], "roulette ball are programmed with a unique value that may be selectively detected by the intelligent table. Once detected, the value is transmitted to the interface manager.");

second detecting means arranged on the bet board, for detecting a bet position of a chip and bet value when the chip is betted on the bet area ([0022] FIG. 9 illustrates a portion of a roulette wheel in accordance with the present invention having a plurality of readers); and

payout calculating means for calculating a payout in the roulette game based on both the position of the pocket where the roulette ball stops and the value in the roulette game detected by the first detecting means and both the bet position of the chip and the bet value detected by the second detecting means ([0077], "the present invention permits the casino to monitor in real-time the payout of bets and to make sure that the dealer is correctly handling the bets placed by physical players because the chips bet by each physical player are counted by each reader 210 associated with a defined position."); wherein

the managing means manages a history of the roulette game based on a detected result by the first detecting means, a detected result detected by the second detecting means and the payout calculated by the payout calculating means ([0039], "memory 306 also serves as a local store for the information acquired by each reader").

19. Regarding **Claim 7**:

Vuong discloses a system wherein the managing means manages the history of the roulette game corresponding to the identification information of the hotel user read by the reading means ([0061], "programmable non-volatile memory section to further aid the casino in monitoring the play at table") and ([0039], "memory 306 also serves as a local store for the information acquired by each reader").

20. Regarding **Claim 8**:

Vuong discloses a system wherein the first detecting means comprises: a first transmitting antenna and a first receiving antenna both of which are arranged parallel with each other on each of the pockets; a first scanning driver connected to both the first transmitting antenna and the first receiving antenna ([0040], "antenna 402 may comprise a radio frequency detector for detecting an RF signal");

a second transmitting antenna and a second receiving antenna both of which are arranged parallel with each other on each of the pockets, so as to cross the first transmitting antenna and the first receiving antenna at right angle; and a second

scanning driver connected to both of the second transmitting antenna and the second receiving antenna ([0065], "antenna associated with module 602 in the ball is sufficient so that a programmed serial number may only be detected").

[0066], "As shown in FIG. 9, a plurality of readers 210 are positioned in alignment with at least every other slot on the wheel. Each reader will have a detection range as indicated by dashed lines 902. Thus, when a ball 800 is positioned in a slot having a reader (not shown), the associated reader will detect the ball. When the ball is positioned in a slot between the two slots having the readers, both of the adjacent readers will detect the presence of the ball 800. By extrapolating the reading from the two readers, table manager 222 determines the slot where the ball is residing. Each reader is coupled to the reader network 220 by a short range RF transmitter coupled to the bottom side of the rotating roulette wheel.")

21. Regarding **Claim 9**:

Vuong discloses a system, wherein the first detecting means detects the pocket where the roulette ball stops by detecting a change of receiving state in electric wave detected by the first receiving antenna and the second receiving antenna ([Claim 23], "roulette ball having an embedded circuit programmed with a value, said value capable of being detected by said reader when positioned in said defined position"),

when scanning electric wave is sent from the first transmitting antenna by the first scanning driver and is sent from the second transmitting antenna by the second scanning driver ([0084], "each of the readers associated with the roulette wheel are coupled to table manager 222 by radio signal").

22. Regarding **Claim 10**:

Vuong discloses a system, further comprising: identification information recording means arranged in the roulette ball, identification information for identifying the roulette ball being recorded in the identification information recording means; wherein the identification information includes at least information in connection with origin of the roulette ball, a place where the roulette ball can be utilized and a kind of the roulette ball.

([0065], "FIG. 8 illustrates yet another gaming object. This sectional view illustrates a roulette ball that is readily detected when it resides in a slot of a roulette wheel. In one preferred embodiment, the ball 800 is ceramic and module 602 is embedded therein. The size of the antenna associated with module 602 in the ball is sufficient so that a programmed serial number may only be detected from a distance of less than the width of one and a half slots on a roulette wheel.")

23. Regarding **Claim 11**:

Vuong discloses a system, wherein the identification information recording means comprises a subminiature wireless ID tag embedded in the roulette ball, and wherein the identification information recorded in the subminiature wireless ID tag is read by the first detecting means ([0065], "the ball 800 is ceramic and module 602 is embedded therein") and ([Claim 23], "roulette ball having an embedded circuit programmed with a value, said value capable of being detected by said reader when positioned in said defined position").

24. Regarding **Claim 12**:

Vuong discloses a system, wherein it is determined whether the roulette ball can be utilized or not based on the identification information read by the first detecting means [0065 and 0066].

25. Regarding **Claims 13 and 24**:

Vuong discloses a system, wherein the second detecting means comprises: a first transmitting antenna and a first receiving antenna both of which are arranged parallel with each other on each of the bet areas of the bet board; a first scanning driver connected to both the first transmitting antenna and the first receiving antenna ([0040], "antenna 402 may comprise a radio frequency detector for detecting an RF signal");

a second transmitting antenna and a second receiving antenna both of which are arranged parallel with each other on each of the bet areas, so as to cross the first transmitting antenna and the first receiving antenna at right angle; and a second scanning driver connected to both of the second transmitting antenna and the second receiving antenna [0040, 0065, 0066, 0084, Claim 23].

26. Regarding **Claims 14 and 25**:

Vuong discloses a system, wherein the second detecting means detects the bet area where the chip is betted by detecting a change of receiving state in electric wave received by the first receiving antenna and the second receiving antenna, when scanning electric wave is sent from the first transmitting antenna by the first scanning driver and is sent from the second transmitting antenna by the second scanning driver ([0040], "antenna 402 may comprise a radio frequency detector for detecting an RF signal") and ([0063], "For token 600, a value may be programmed into the memory of the chip for detection by reader 210 or 214").

27. Regarding **Claims 15 and 26**:

Vuong discloses a system, further comprising: chip information recording means arranged in the chip, chip information being recorded in the chip information recording means; wherein the chip information includes at least information in connection with a specific number for identifying the chip, bet value and a place where the chip is utilized.

("[0063] FIG. 6 illustrates another gaming object. Specifically, a casino chip or token 600 is shown having an embedded module 602... For token 600, a value may be programmed into the memory of the chip for detection by reader 210 or 214.") and ([0077], "the present invention permits the casino to monitor in real-time the payout of bets and to make sure that the dealer is correctly handling the bets placed by physical players because the chips bet by each physical player are counted by each reader 210 associated with a defined position").

28. Regarding **Claims 16 and 27**:

Vuong discloses a system, wherein the chip information recording means comprises a subminiature wireless ID tag embedded in the chip, and wherein the chip information recorded in the subminiature wireless ID tag is read by the second detecting means ([0063], "casino chip or token 600 is shown having an embedded module 602...For token 600, a value may be programmed into the memory of the chip for detection by reader 210 or 214").

29. Regarding **Claim 21**:

Vuong discloses a system, wherein the gaming table device comprises: is a gaming table; a card arranging part to which cards are dealt, the card arranging part being formed on the gaming table ([0035], "a defined position 208 where the cards are dealt");

a bet part to which the chip is betted, the bet part being formed on the gaming table ([0071], "the bet is place by positioning a stack of chips at the appropriate spot at each player position 202 on the table 112");

first detecting means for detecting kinds of the cards dealt on the card arranging part ([Abstract], "Gaming objects, such as cards, die, chips, tokens or roulette ball are programmed with a unique value that may be selectively detected by the intelligent table"); and

second detecting means for detecting the chip betted on the bet part ([0077], "the present invention permits the casino to monitor in real-time the payout of bets and to make sure that the dealer is correctly handling the bets placed by physical players because the chips bet by each physical player are counted by each reader 210 associated with a defined position."); wherein

the managing means manages a history of the card game based on the kinds of the cards detected by the first detecting means or the chip detected by the second detecting means ([0039], "memory 306 also serves as a local store for the information acquired by each reader").

30. Regarding **Claim 22**:

Vuong discloses a system, wherein the managing means manages the history of the card game corresponding to the identification information of the hotel user read by the reading means ([0061], "programmable non-volatile memory section to further aid

the casino in monitoring the play at table") and ([0039], "memory 306 also serves as a local store for the information acquired by each reader").

31. Regarding **Claim 23**:

Vuong discloses a system, wherein the first detecting means comprises: two or more resonance wireless ID tags embedded in the card ([0039], "Interface 302 is responsible for acquiring the value of each card (or RFID chip) positioned within the detection range of each reader");

a card determining device arranged in the card arranging part for determining kinds of the cards based on frequencies of echo waves by sending electromagnetic wave to each of the resonance wireless ID tags and receiving echo waves emitted from the resonance wireless ID tags ([0062], "positioned proximate to readers it is able to determine the value of the card using proximity detection techniques") and ([0040], "antenna 402 may comprise a radio frequency detector for detecting an RF signal") and ([0050], "then the CAVN field will have a valid range between 1 to 54 to indicate the suit and the value of each card").

32. Claims 17-20 and 28-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Binh Thanh Vuong et al. (US 2002/0147042) (Hereinafter referred to as Vuong), in view of Boushy et al. (US 6,003,013) (Hereinafter referred to as Boushy),

as applied above in the rejection of claims 1, 5, 6, 13, 21, and 24, and further in view of Kloss et al. (US 5,531,309) (Hereinafter referred to as Kloss).

33. Regarding **Claims 17 and 28**:

Vuong discloses a system, further comprising: measuring means arranged corresponding to each of the bet areas in the bet board; wherein the measuring means calculates a number of the chips ([0038] "a chip tray proximate to the dealer's position 204. The chip tray is coupled to reader network 220 such that the total number of chips in the tray may be counted and the value transmitted to a monitoring server coupled to LAN 224.")

Vuong fails to explicitly state that the measuring means is based on the unit weight of one chip.

However, Kloss teaches a system, wherein the measuring means calculates a number of the chips based on the unit weight of one chip ([Abstract], "A gaming machine has internal coin container sensors (110, 112) that sense the weight, and therefore, the number of coins contained in the internal coin containers").

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have modified the system of Vuong so as to have included a system, wherein the measuring means calculates a number of the chips based on the unit weight of one chip, as taught by Kloss, in order to more efficiently "calculate the value of a stack of chips or tokens" [Vuong, 0067], since so doing could be performed

readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

34. Regarding **Claims 18 and 29**:

Vuong discloses a system, further comprising: measuring means arranged corresponding to each of the bet areas in the bet board; wherein the measuring means calculates a number of the chips ([0038] "a chip tray proximate to the dealer's position 204. The chip tray is coupled to reader network 220 such that the total number of chips in the tray may be counted and the value transmitted to a monitoring server coupled to LAN 224.")

Vuong fails to explicitly state wherein the measuring means comprises a semiconductor pressure sensor.

However, Kloss teaches a system, wherein the measuring means comprises a semiconductor pressure sensor ([Abstract], "A gaming machine has internal coin container sensors (110, 112) that sense the weight"). Any metal scale would suffice as a "semiconductor pressure sensor."

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have modified the system of Vuong so as to have included a system, wherein the measuring means comprises a semiconductor pressure sensor, as taught by Kloss, in order to more efficiently "calculate the value of a stack of chips or tokens" [Vuong, 0067], since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any

person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

35. Regarding **Claims 19, 20, 30, and 31**:

Vuong discloses a system, further comprising: measuring means arranged corresponding to each of the bet areas in the bet board; wherein the measuring means calculates a number of the chips ([0038] "a chip tray proximate to the dealer's position 204. The chip tray is coupled to reader network 220 such that the total number of chips in the tray may be counted and the value transmitted to a monitoring server coupled to LAN 224.")

Vuong fails to explicitly state wherein it is determined whether the chip is forged or not by comparing the calculated number of the chips by the measuring means with the result detected by the second detecting means and it is determined that the chip is forged when the calculated number of the chips does not coincide with the result detected by the second detecting means.

However, Kloss teaches a system, wherein it is determined whether the chip is forged or not by comparing the calculated number of the chips by the measuring means with the result detected by the second detecting means and it is determined that the chip is forged when the calculated number of the chips does not coincide with the result detected by the second detecting means.

([Abstract], "A gaming machine has internal coin container sensors (110, 112) that sense the weight, and therefore, the number of coins contained in the internal coin containers (104, 106). The gaming machine also has mechanical and/or optical sensors (102, 114) to monitor the inflow and outflow of coins. By comparing the number of coins, as determined by weight, with the number of coins detected by the mechanical and/or optical sensors, fraud is readily detected.").

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have modified the system of Vuong so as to have included a system, wherein it is determined whether the chip is forged or not by comparing the calculated number of the chips by the measuring means with the result detected by the second detecting means and it is determined that the chip is forged when the calculated number of the chips does not coincide with the result detected by the second detecting means, as taught by Kloss, in order to more efficiently "calculate the value of a stack of chips or tokens" [Vuong, 0067], since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

Conclusion

36. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

37. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fathi Abdelsalam whose telephone number is (571) 270-3517. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday 8:00-5:00pm Est..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jerry O'Connor can be reached on (571) 272-6787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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